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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/117,799	08/06/1998	WOLFGANG FRAAS	P98.1428	4083

21171 7590 06/11/2003

STAAS & HALSEY LLP
700 11TH STREET, NW
SUITE 500
WASHINGTON, DC 20001

EXAMINER

TSEGAYE, SABA

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2662

DATE MAILED: 06/11/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



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Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/117,799

Applicant(s)

FRAAS ET AL.

Examiner

Saba Tsegaye

Art Unit

2662

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 March 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: on page 8, line 30 the word IWF; on page 9, line 20; and on page 10, line 16, the word ISDN are misspelled.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

3. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter, which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. The specification fail to adequately describe that the line termination is provided at a private branch exchange.

CLAIM RET-103

4. Claims 1-4 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Duault et al. (US 5,638,365) in view of Norizuki et al. (US 5,675,574) and Yamada et al. (US 5,412,655).

Regarding claims 1, 3 and 4, Duault discloses, in Fig. 5, a transmission system for transmitting digital signals between TDM-based terminal equipment (DTE) comprising:

an ATM network (13) having user interfaces (column 5, lines 52-55) (as in claims 1 and 3);

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connection units (15) provided respectively at the line termination to respectively connect the line termination to one of the user interfaces of the ATM network (as in claims 1 and 4); and conversion units (IWF) to convert time-division multiples data into ATM cells, or ATM cells into time-division multiples data (column 5, lines 50-55) (as in claims 1 and 4).

Further, Duault describes that interconnection of PBXs presents requirements to multiplex several TDM channel in an ATM connection.

However, Duault does not expressly disclose: an ET, which is the ET and the LT respectively connected to ATM network (as in claim 1); a line termination at PBX (as in claim 6); and an allocation unit to allocate a virtual ATM channel to each TDM channel (as in claims 1 and 4).

Norizuki teaches, in Fig. 2B, an ATM multiplexing transmission unit 16 (claimed ET) and an ATM adaptation layer 17 (claimed conversion units at the exchange termination). Further, Norizuki teaches, in Fig. 8, cell assembly 213i, disassemble 213a, FSYNC 213f and SYNC 212a (column 7, line 27-column 8, line 50).

It would have been obvious to one ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to substitute an exchange termination, such as that suggested by Norizuki, to the DTE of Duault in order provide a connection between ATM network and a TDM network and to enable a narrow-band communication between subscriber terminals.

Regarding claim 6, Norizuki discloses, in fig. 3B, an interface 213 (claimed a line termination is provided at a PBX) provided between the PBX and ATM network.

It would have been obvious to one ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to add a system that provide a line termination at PBX, such as that suggested by Norizuki, to the system of Duault in order to connect more devices to the interface and to reduce complexity in the communication system.

Yamada teaches an assembly/disassembly system containing a cell assembly receives TDM data to assemble ATM cells by storing the TDM data into the respective banks according to the virtual channels. The cell disassembly receives ATM cells from the ATM highway to disassemble the ATM cell (ATM cell is formed for each virtual channel of received ATM cells) into TDM data (column 3, lines 14-64; column 5, line 39-column 6, line 30; abstract).

It would have been obvious to one ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to substitute an allocation unit that allocate a virtual ATM channel to each TDM channel, such as that suggested by Yamada, to the allocation unit, in the circuit emulation service of Duault in order to enhance accuracy and to reduce complexity.

Regarding claim 2, Duault discloses a transmission system further comprising a switching device for switching time division multiples digital signal between a plurality of exchange terminations wherein the plurality of exchange terminations of the switching device are connected to a single user interface of an ATM network (column 5, lines 50-55).

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5. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Duault in view of Norizuki and Yamada as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Helbig et al. (US 5,673,258).

Duault in view of Norizuki and Yamada discloses all the claim limitations as stated above except for a V1 reference point between the exchange termination and the line termination.

Helbig discloses, in Fig. 3, a V reference point between exchange termination and the line termination. As shown in Fig. 3, between different functional groups (ET, LT, NT, TE), certain reference points are defined, which separate the functional groups from one another.

It would have been obvious to one ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to add a V reference point between exchange termination and the line termination, such as that suggested by Helbig, in the ATM network of Duault in view of Norizuki and Yamada in order to comply the standard since the V is the reference point between the exchange termination and the line termination so would be logical to make the ATM network the V reference to comply with the standard.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-6 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

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Conclusion

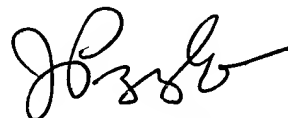
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Saba Tsegaye whose telephone number is (703) 308-4754. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (7:30-5:00), First Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hassan Kizou can be reached on (703) 305-4744. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9314.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

ST

June 2, 2003


JOHN PEZZLO
PRIMARY EXAMINER